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Subject: For Review by Noon 3/10: OECD planning meeting for joint EPOC-DAC HLM: Talking Points--revised



OECDepoc309joint
HLMplanningtps...

For review by noon 3/10, this circulates revised talking points for the 3/12 OECD meeting to plan the May EPOC-DAC HLM. The initial draft talking points circulated 3/4 have been revised to reflect input as of this afternoon.

The principal change is to indicate that the US can support the HLM agenda including a fourth session as now re-framed to focus on low (er)-carbon development paths.

Other changes largely involve comments on how the issue paper frames the discussion of the agreed themes (water finance, capacity building and climate change).

Please call if questions, etc.

Chris
564-6463

(See attached file: OECDepoc309jointHLMplanningtps.doc)

Joint Meeting of Extended EPOC-DAC Bureaux
March 12, 2009

Summary and Talking Points

Summary:

The purpose of the March 12 joint meeting of the extended EPOC-DAC bureaux is to finalize plans for the May 28 (PM)-29 joint EPOC-DAC high level meeting.

The planning meeting will follow a DAC meeting on March 10; and the May 28 (PM)-29 HLM will follow a high-level DAC meeting on May 27-28 (AM). Anita Menghetti, senior OECD/DAC advisor, Office of Development Partners, USAID) will attend the 3/10 DAC meeting and will "sit in" on the 3/12 planning meeting. Keri Holland, State Department Office of Environmental Policy and Charles Randolph (OECD Mission) will also attend.

Scott Fulton will attend the HLM for EPA. The participation and the level of participation of other agencies remains to be decided.

According to the OECD, some OECD members may participate in the HLM at the ministerial level. Development ministers will already be in Paris for the DAC HLM. At the 2006 joint EPOC-DAC ministerial, the US was represented by a joint (State, AID, EPA) delegation at the AA level.

The draft agenda for the March 12 meeting boils down to four items:

- the HLM agenda. This is for "discussion and approval". The HLM agenda proposes an opening session, four thematic sessions, and a summary session. A dinner would follow the second thematic session.

- the HLM issues paper. This is for "discussion".

- "suggestions" for lead speakers for each thematic session and for a theme and a speaker for the dinner. Total: five speakers (NB: this assumes that the EPOC-DAC co-chairs will "chair" the opening and the final session).

- report to ministers. This is for "discussion".

US objectives:

- establish a constructive basis for HLM planning, implementation and follow-on.

- maintain an appropriate balance among the three leading HLM environment-development themes (water-sanitation finance, capacity development for resource management, financing climate adaptation and lower-carbon-based development)

- avoid messages and conclusions from the HLM intended to privilege, pre-empt or displace particular climate negotiations outcomes.

- ensure that financing discussions are balanced and take accurate account of existing financing, of leveraging national domestic and private sector financing, and commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

It also identifies possible “next steps” for joint EPOC-DAC work (paras. 12-13).
Note: The US has been a nominal but inactive (due to resource constraints) member of the climate and water task teams.

7. Other business. No intervention needed.
8. Conclusions. Intervention as needed.

--we would like to float the idea of reversing the sequence of Session I (water) and Session II (capacity development). As a general matter, the subject of capacity development can be viewed as a theme that could inform all four sessions.

Sustainable Financing of Water and Sanitation

--we appreciate the mention of the role that local capital mobilization can play.

--it would be logical, and we would like to suggest, that the summary also mention the role of development assistance in building domestic capacity to mobilize local finance.

--the summary might also suggest discussion of ways to enhance cooperation between environment, development and finance ministries within both the donor and the recipient governments and how to enhance the involvement of technical experts in decision-making.

Capacity building and governance for environmental management

--The subject of capacity building and the subject of governance, while closely related, are nonetheless distinct. The issues paper however seems to focus almost exclusively on capacity building.

--With respect to capacity building, the importance of capacity building for enforcement might be mentioned.

--Unless the discussion is to be limited to capacity building for improved governance we suggest more generally to add a paragraph on issues in governance, e.g., designing the process and framework for governmental decision making, improving information quality and utilization, informing choice of instruments and of level (local, regional, national) of intervention.

Financing and Capacity Building for Climate Change Adaptation

--While this topic and the discussion are timely and important, it is unclear why the text (paragraph 22, last line) refers to "development and environment perspectives on these matters could be an important contribution to the discussions ahead of the [15th COP of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009]". Could it be clarified what 'contribution' is intended?

--The wording of Paragraph 22 (sentence two) and 23 (sentence four) and the topic line preceding paragraph 23 ("Mobilizing adequate finance for adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority") could lead participants to focus, not on how to mobilize finance, but rather on what amount of finance is "adequate". To maintain the focus on the development of sources of finance rather than amounts, we suggest deleting the word "adequate".

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